

CATAWBA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX A
DIRECTION AND CONTROL

I. PURPOSE

This annex outlines the direction and control procedures for emergency operations and identifies the personnel, facilities and resources which will be utilized in the coordinated response activities.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Direction and control of normal day-to-day emergencies is performed by senior on-scene emergency response personnel (i.e. law enforcement, fire, rescue, EMS) in accordance with local ordinances, policies and procedures.
2. Many hazards exist within or near the County which have the potential to cause disasters of such magnitude as to warrant centralization of the direction and control (Emergency Operations Center) function in order to conduct effective and efficient emergency operations.
3. Municipalities within the county may exercise independent direction and control of their own emergency resources, outside resources assigned to the municipality by the Catawba County Emergency Operations Center, and resources secured through existing mutual aid agreements with other municipalities. Requests for state/federal government assistance will be directed to the Catawba County Emergency Management Coordinator prior to activation.
4. Centralized county-wide direction and control (Emergency Operations Center activation) is desirable when one or more of the following situations occur:
 - a. there exists an imminent threat to the public safety/health;

- b. extensive multi-agency/multi-jurisdiction response and coordination are necessary to resolve or recover from the emergency situation;
 - c. local resources are inadequate/depleted and significant mutual aid, state and/or federal resources must be utilized to resolve the emergency situation;
 - d. the disaster affects multiple political jurisdictions within the county which are relying on the same emergency resources to resolve the emergency situation;
 - e. local emergency ordinances are implemented to control the emergency situation.
- 5. The County Emergency Operating Center serves as the central direction and control point for county-wide emergency response activities.
 - 6. The primary County Emergency Operating Center (EOC) is located in the Justice Center at 100 Southwest Blvd.
 - 7. In the event the primary Emergency Operations Center is inoperable, an alternate Emergency Operations Center may be established in the Government Center at 100-A Southwest Blvd.

B. Assumptions

- 1. The designated Emergency Operations Center will be activated upon the threat or occurrence of a major emergency/disaster and designated personnel will report to the Emergency Operations Center in a timely fashion.
- 2. The County Emergency Operations Center facility and equipment is adequate for coordinating county-wide emergency operations.
- 3. Sufficient procedures have been developed to effectively direct and control disaster operations/recovery.

4. Emergency operations and coordination at all levels of government will be carried out according to plans and procedures.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATION

A. General

1. Emergency operations shall include all activities which are directed toward reduction of the immediate hazard, establishing situation control and restoration of normal operations within the county.
2. The responsibility for the direction and control of disaster situations is vested in the County Board of Commissioners and is routinely exercised through the Emergency Management Coordinator.
3. The Emergency Management Coordinator will activate, organize and operate the Emergency Operations Center in a flexible manner based on the magnitude of the situation.
4. The organizational structure of the Emergency Operations Center will be arranged according to the type of incident, agencies and/or jurisdictions involved, objectives and strategies selected to resolve the situation and the demands of the emergency. Municipalities, when needed, will provide representation in the County Emergency Operations Center for interjurisdictional coordination when the event severely affects the jurisdiction or as requested.
5. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners will be notified by the Emergency Management Coordinator when Emergency Operations Center activation is warranted to direct and control emergency operations.
6. The Emergency Operations Center is the operational area from which emergency response activities can be directed, controlled and coordinated and utilizes the facilities of the County Communications Center. It will be managed in accordance with

the County Emergency Operations Center Standard Operating Procedures.

7. On-scene activities of emergency response personnel will be managed utilizing the Incident Command System.

B. Staffing

Personnel assigned to the Emergency Operations Center will operate in one of the common function sections as assigned by the Emergency Management Coordinator:

1. The Executive Group, under the direction of the Chairman of County Commissioners, consists of the elected officials, jurisdictional management and liaison officials, jurisdictional Public Information Officer (PIO) and is responsible for:
 - a. the approval of policies and strategies pertinent to the emergency/disaster situation.
 - b. conducting briefings of the Emergency Operations Center staff to assure coordination of information.
2. The Operations Group, under the direction of the Emergency Management Coordinator and consisting of the designated representatives of the agencies conducting emergency operations (law enforcement, fire, rescue, EMS, others as appropriate), is responsible for the direct supervision of county operations including the allocation of resources necessary to implement the approved strategies and policies.
3. The Planning Group, consisting of the radiological officer, damage assessment officer and other technical advisors pertinent to the type of emergency/disaster, may be established to:
 - a. collect, evaluate, display and disseminate information regarding the incident and status of resources;

- b. maintain a journal, post data and maintain status boards;
 - c. analyze the predictable probable course of emergency incident events;
 - d. develop strategies (action plans) and alternatives to control operations for the incident; and,
 - e. anticipate resource requirements.
- 4. The Logistics Group, consisting of the communications supervisor, and representatives of emergency support agencies (ie. shelter and mass care, public works, communications, etc.), may be established to coordinate the acquisition of supplies, equipment and other resources (public and private) necessary and approved to resolve/recover from the emergency or disaster situation.
- 5. The Finance Group, under the direction of the County Finance Officer, may be established to:
 - a. compile and maintain documentation of purchases, acquisition and utilization of emergency supplies, equipment and other services;
 - b. perform financial and cost analysis to develop conclusions on efficient methods of resolving and recovering from the emergency/disaster situation.

IV. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Staffing assignments for positions in the Emergency Operations Center will allow for continuous 24-hour operations. Selection and assignment of personnel will be the responsibility of the agency.
- B. In the event that the primary Emergency Operations Center is not functional, the alternate Emergency Operations Center will be activated.